

Message Text

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TO AMEMBASSY MOSCOW PRIORITY

INFO AMCONSUL LENINGRAD PRIORITY

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: OESC, SCUL, UR

SUBJECT: AP STORY ON PERFORMING ARTS EXCHANGES

1. AP WIRE SERVICE CARRIED STORY JULY 16 QUOTING CU OFFICIAL CORIDEN AS SAYING US PERFORMING ARTISTS ARE OFTEN FACED WITH "DEBILITATING" LIVING CONDITIONS WHEN THEY TOUR THE SOVIET UNION. SOURCE OF THE STORY IS PAPER PREPARED FOR AIRLIE HOUSE CONFERENCE ON US-SOVIET EXCHANGES JUNE 16-17. AP OBTAINED THIS AND OTHER PAPERS PREPARED FOR THE CONFERENCE FROM A PARTICIPANT. EXCEPT FOR THE CRITICISM OF SOVIETS ON PERFORMING ARTS EXCHANGES, THE PAPERS PREPARED BY DEPARTMENT OFFICERS ARE MOSTLY FACTUAL, DESCRIPTIVE STATEMENTS OF WHAT HAS HAPPENED IN US-SOVIET EXCHANGES IN RECENT YEARS.

2. S/PRS HAS THE FOLLOWING CONTINGENCY PRESS GUIDANCE IN CASE ABOVE STORY IS RAISED AT NOON PRESS BRIEFING:

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Q: DOES THE AP STORY ON AMERICAN-SOVIET EXCHANGES ACCURATE-

LY REFLECT THE DEPARTMENT'S VIEW?

A: THE STORY IS APPARENTLY BASED ON UNCLASSIFIED PAPERS, SOME PREPARED BY WORKING-LEVEL DEPARTMENT OFFICERS AND SOME BY PRIVATE INDIVIDUALS, FOR AN INFORMAL DISCUSSION OF US-SOVIET EXCHANGES. THE PURPOSE OF THESE PAPERS WAS TO STIMULATE DISCUSSION OF THE CURRENT STATE OF US-SOVIET EXCHANGES AS WELL AS IDEAS FOR NEW DIRECTIONS IN THESE EXCHANGES. THE VIEWS PRESENTED IN THESE PAPERS ARE THOSE OF THE INDIVIDUAL AUTHORS AND DO NOT REPRESENT OFFICIAL US GOVERNMENT POLICY. I AM NOT PREPARED TO COMMENT ON THEM.

Q: WERE ANY DECISIONS MADE AT THE AIRLIE HOUSE CONFERENCE ON US-SOVIET EXCHANGES?

A: THE PURPOSE OF THE MEETING WAS NOT TO REACH ANY DECISIONS BUT TO STIMULATE IDEAS FOR POSSIBLE INCORPORATION IN FUTURE US-SOVIET EXCHANGE PROGRAMS.

Q: WHEN WILL THE NEXT US-SOVIET EXCHANGES AGREEMENT BE NEGOTIATED?

A: THE US-USSR GENERAL AGREEMENT ON CONTACTS, EXCHANGES, AND COOPERATION, SIGNED JUNE 19, 1973, IS IN FORCE UNTIL DECEMBER 31, 1979. AN ANNEX TO THAT AGREEMENT CONTAINS THE PROGRAM OF EXCHANGES FOR 1974-1976. THE PROGRAM OF EXCHANGES FOR 1977-1979 WILL BE NEGOTIATED BY THE TWO GOVERNMENTS LATER THIS YEAR.

3. EMBASSY MAY DRAW ON ABOVE GUIDANCE IF SUBJECT RAISED BY MOSCOW PRESS CORPS.

4. AP STORY CARRIED BY NEW YORK TIMES JULY 17. KISSINGER

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